

## For Immediate Release August 16, 2017

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## Official Response to Change.org Petition Regarding Dog Bite Case

The DeSoto County Animal Shelter is an organization that diligently strives to protect the welfare of animals in the community that it serves. Recently, a petition on Change.org incorrectly accused DeSoto County's Assistant Director of Animal Control, Jason Patrick, of being involved in a dog bite case that has resulted in a judgment that the dog be euthanized. In addition, the petition states that DeSoto County Constable Joshua Wilson issued this judgment, incorrectly identifying Constable Wilson as "Judge Joshua Wilson".

Neither the DeSoto County Animal Shelter, the DeSoto County Courts, nor Constable Joshua Wilson have overseen the case addressed in the petition. The Animal Shelter maintains detailed records of all dog bite cases to which it responds, and there is no record of the events described in the petition. In addition, there is no court documentation showing that this case appeared before any DeSoto County judge.

The DeSoto County Animal Shelter has built a reputation of integrity and compassion towards all animals, and we are saddened that inaccurate and dishonest information has had a negative impact on the reputation that Animal Shelter Staff have worked tirelessly to build. The DeSoto County Government and our Animal Shelter will continue to serve the community in a manner that makes citizens proud to call DeSoto County home.